

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A business application generation system for automatically generating a business software application, comprising:

- a central processing unit [(14)];
- a repository [(20)] containing a set of meta data;
- a generation tool [(22)]; and
- input/output means [(16)] for treating said meta data and for invoking said generation tool [(22)];

said set of meta data containing structured business process application information comprising information on functions operating on business data, and said generation tool [(22)] retrieving data from said repository [(20)] and, on the basis of said retrieved repository data, generating a customized business process application.

2. (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 1, wherein said generation tool [(22)] comprises a first tool and a second tool, said first tool being a meta data dependent passer element [(30)] and said second tool being a meta data independent generating element [(32)].

3. (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein said set of meta data consists of data base tables containing meta data entities.

4. (Original): The system according to claim 3, wherein said meta data entities contain information on the identification of an application to be generated, on object types and on object structures.

5. (Original): The system according to claim 4, wherein said object types contain information on the business process data to be processed by the application to be generated and on functions operating on said business process.

6. (Currently Amended): The system according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 5,~~ claim 1, wherein said business process is a billing process.

7. (Currently Amended): The system according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 5,~~ claim 1, wherein said business process is a bonus payment process.

8. (Currently Amended): The system according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 5,~~ claim 1, wherein said business process is a commission payment process.

9. (Currently Amended): The system according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 5,~~ claim 1, wherein said input/output means is a workbench [[(16)]] enabling at least one of [[the]] viewing, creating, adding, deleting, changing, inheriting, and editing of said repository meta data.

10. (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 2, wherein said input/output means is a workbench [(16)] enabling the invocation of said generation tool [(22)] by initiating an import of meta data into said passer element [(30)].

11. (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 2, wherein said passer element [(30)] handles, interprets, and processes said set of meta data for input to said generating element [(32)], said generating element [(32)] generating, on the basis of said data input, program code for said business process application.

12. (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 11, wherein said generating element [(32)] further generates data objects for said business process application.

13. (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 11, wherein said generating element [(32)] further generates a data base for said business process application.

14. (Currently Amended): A method for generating a business software application, comprising:

providing a set of meta data containing information on the business process data to be processed by the application to be generated and on functions operating on said business process data, and

importing said set of meta data comprising information on functions into a generation tool [[[22)]] comprising a meta data dependent passer element [[[30)]] and a meta data independent generating element [[[32)]] for generating a customized business software application.

15. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of customizing said set of meta data via an input/output means before said meta data is imported into said generation tool [[[22)]]].

16. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim [[14 or]] 15, further comprising the step of handling, interpreting, and processing said set of meta data imported into said generation tool [[[22)]] in said meta data dependent passer element [[[30)]]].

17. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of inputting said set of meta data after processing in said passer element [[[30)]] into said generating element [[[32)]]], and generating program code for said business process application on the basis of said data input.

18. (Currently Amended): A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium comprising instructions for carrying out a method for generating a business software application, the ~~computer~~

~~program product comprising instructions to cause a processor of a computer to execute~~
~~the following steps:~~ method comprising:

importing a set of meta data comprising information on functions into a
generation tool $[(22)]$, said generation tool $[(22)]$ comprising a meta data dependent
passer element $[(30)]$ and a meta data independent generating element $[(32)]$, and

on the basis of said set of meta data, processing meta data in said passer
element $[(30)]$, inputting said processed meta data in said generating element $[(32)]$
and generating a customized business software application.

19. (Cancelled):

20. (Currently Amended): A business application generation system for
automatically adapting a business software application, comprising:

- [-] a central processing unit $[(14)]$;
- [-] a repository $[(20)]$ containing a set of meta data;
- [-] a generation tool $[(22)]$; and
- [-] input/output means $[(16)]$ for treating said meta data and for invoking
said generation tool $[(22)]$;

said set of meta data containing structured business process application
information comprising information on functions operating on business data, and said
generation tool $[(22)]$ retrieving data from said repository $[(20)]$ and, on the basis of
said retrieved repository data, generating a customized adapted version of an existing
business process application.

21. (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 20, wherein said generation tool [[[22)]] comprises a first tool and a second tool, said first tool being a meta data dependent passer element [[[30)]] and said second tool being a meta data independent generating element [[[32)]]].

22. (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 20 [[or 21]], wherein said set of meta data consists of data base tables containing meta data entities.

23. (Original): The system according to claim 22, wherein said meta data entities contain information on the identification of an application to be generated, on object types and on object structures.

24. (Original): The system according to claim 23, wherein said object types contain information on the business process data to be processed by the application to be generated and on functions operating on said business process.

25. (Currently Amended): The system according to ~~one of the claims 20 to 24~~ claim 20, wherein said business process is a billing process.

26. (Currently Amended): The system according to ~~one of the claims 20 to 24~~ claim 20, wherein said business process is a bonus payment process.

27. (Currently Amended): The system according to ~~one of the claims 20 to 24~~ claim 20, wherein said business process is a commission payment process.

28. (Currently Amended): The system according to ~~one of the claims 20 to 24~~ claim 20, wherein said input/output means is a workbench [[(16)]] enabling at least one of [[the]] viewing, creating, adding, deleting, changing, inheriting, and editing of said repository meta data.

29. (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 21, wherein said input/output means is a workbench [[(16)]] enabling the invocation of said generation tool [[(22)]] by initiating an import of meta data into said passer element.

30. (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 21, wherein said passer element [[(30)]] handles, interprets, and processes said set of meta data for input to said generating element [[(32)]], said generating element [[(32)]] generating, on the basis of said data input, program code for said business process application 30.

31. (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 30, wherein said generating element [[(32)]] further generates data objects for said business process application.

32. (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 30, wherein said generating element [[[32)]] further generates a data base for said business process application.

33. (Currently Amended): A method for generating an adapted business software application, comprising:

providing a set of meta data containing information on the business process data to be processed by the adapted application to be generated and on functions operating on said business process data, and

importing said set of meta data comprising information on functions into a generation tool [[[22)]] comprising a meta data dependent passer element [[[30)]] and a meta data independent generating element [[[32)]] for generating a customized adapted business software application.

34. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 33, further comprising the step of customizing said set of meta data via an input/output means [[[16)]] before said meta data is imported into said generation tool.

35. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim [[33 or]] 34, further comprising the step of handling, interpreting, and processing said set of meta data imported into said generation tool in said meta data dependent passer element [[[30)]]].

36. (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 35, further comprising the steps of inputting said set of meta data after processing in said passer element ~~[[30]]~~ into said generating element ~~[[32]]~~, and generating program code for said business process application on the basis of said data input.

37. (Currently Amended): A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium comprising instructions for carrying out a method for generating an adapted business software application, the ~~computer program product comprising instructions to cause a processor of a computer to execute the following steps~~ method comprising:

importing a set of meta data into a generation tool ~~[[22]]~~, said generation tool ~~[[22]]~~ comprising a meta data dependent passer element ~~[[30]]~~ and a meta data independent generating element ~~[[32]]~~, and

on the basis of said set of meta data, processing meta data in said passer element ~~[[30]]~~, inputting said processed meta data in said generating element ~~[[32]]~~ and generating a customized adapted business software application.

38. (Cancelled):